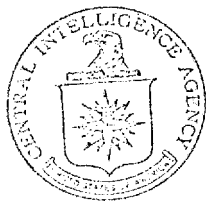


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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

29 September 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Melvin R. Laird
The Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT: : Planned Reductions in MACDI and the
Problems They Generate

25X1 1. Attached hereto is the text of a 27 September cable from [redacted] Saigon reporting what he has been given to understand are the personnel strength reductions planned for MACV's Directorate of Intelligence and flagging the problems he believes will be generated by reductions of this level effected within this brief a time frame. The specific matters raised by this cable are illustrative concrete components of a more basic general problem, namely the overall adverse impact on U.S. intelligence capabilities in Indochina of the progressive withdrawal of U.S. resources from that area.

25X1 2. I would appreciate your thoughts and comments on the attached cable. First of all, of course, I would like to know whether the [redacted] understanding of the proposed MACDI reduction schedule is factually accurate, i.e., is this also your understanding of what has been directed or authorized. I would also welcome your views on how best we might jointly cope with the particular problems that will be generated by such a curtailment of MACDI's strength, hence capabilities. Please add to this your thoughts on how we can best cope with the more basic problem created by the fact that the progressive curtailment of overall U.S. resources in the Indochina area has not been and does not seem likely to be matched by any corresponding diminution in the depth, breadth and timeliness of

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intelligence coverage on this area that the U.S. intelligence community is expected to provide. Mr. George Carver will be prepared to explore these matters with you in more detail at his next session scheduled for Tuesday, 3 October.

3. Because of his obvious and direct interest in the matters involved, I am sending a copy of this memorandum and its attachment to the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

/s/
Richard Helms
Director

Attachment

cc: Admiral de Poix w/att

X- GAC Chrono
1 - VAS Chrono
1 - VAS/RAC
ER

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